THE GREAT CHAOS CAPER
PART 4 OF 4
ISSUE 66
SEGA
Archie COMICS
SONIC UNIVERSE
BASH OF THE TITANS
KROOHARR
Tracy Yardley! -Jim Amash HERE
ARCHIECOMICS.COM

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Knuckles and the Chaotix scramble to save the world – and their own lives!

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

DANGER RISING!

Knuckles the Echidna thought he had a simple mission: go down to the world below and find a lost spirit. He would locate that spirit, return him to Angel Island, then together they would find a way to end the Shattered World Crisis.

So much for that!

Knuckles was joined by the Chaotix, who were hired by Princess Sally to find the Chaos Emeralds. And just when things seemed to be going his way, Knuckles found himself ambushed by mercenaries and monsters alike!

Now Knuckles and the Chaotix are trapped, fighting for their lives in a **rapidly flooding mine...**

WHO'S WHO

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA
GUARDIAN OF ANGEL ISLAND

TEAM CHAOTIX
(VECTOR, ESPIO & CHARMY)
FREELANCE DETECTIVES

TEAM HOOLIGAN
(BARK, NACK & BEAN)
MERCENARY OUTLAWS

CHIP
SPIRIT WITH AMNESIA

SONIC UNIVERSE (ISSN: 2157-3050), No. 66, September, 2014. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Jonathan Goldwater, Publisher/Co-CEO, Nancy Silberkleit, Co-CEO, Mike Pellerito, President, Victor Gorelick, Co-President. Single copies $2.99. Subscription rate: $35.88 for 12 issues. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds.
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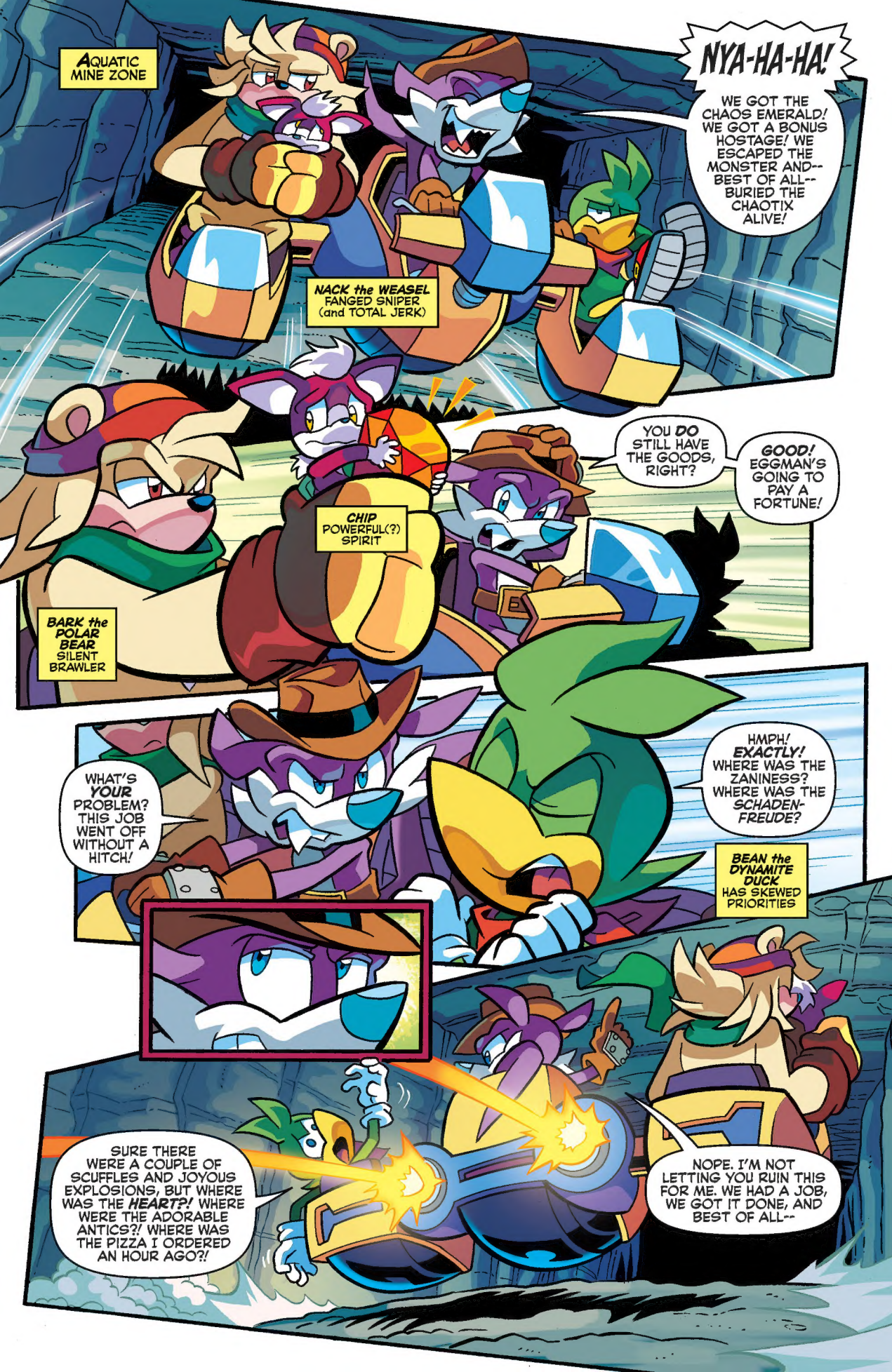
AQUATIC MINE ZONE
NYA-HA-HA!
WE GOT THE CHAOS EMERALD! WE GOT A BONUS HOSTAGE! WE ESCAPED THE MONSTER AND-- BEST OF ALL-- BURIED THE CHAOTIX ALIVE!
NACK the WEASEL FANGED SNIPER (and TOTAL JERK)
YOU DO STILL HAVE THE GOODS, RIGHT?
GOOD! EGGMAN'S GOING TO PAY A FORTUNE!
CHIP POWERFUL(?) SPIRIT
BARK the POLAR BEAR SILENT BRAWLER
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? THIS JOB WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH!
HMPH! EXACTLY! WHERE WAS THE ZANINESS? WHERE WAS THE SCHADEN-FREUDE?
BEAN the DYNAMITE DUCK HAS SKEWED PRIORITIES
SURE THERE WERE A COUPLE OF SCUFFLES AND JOYOUS EXPLOSIONS, BUT WHERE WAS THE HEART?! WHERE WERE THE ADORABLE ANTICS?! WHERE WAS THE PIZZA I ORDERED AN HOUR AGO?!
NOPE. I'M NOT LETTING YOU RUIN THIS FOR ME. WE HAD A JOB, WE GOT IT DONE, AND BEST OF ALL--

"--WE ELIMINATED THE COMPETITION!"
DARK GAIA TITAN SUPER-POWERFUL BEAST FROM THE DEPTHS
VECTOR the CROCODILE CHAOTIX LEADER
CHARMY the BEE JUNIOR CHAOTIX
ESPIO the CHAMELEON CHAOTIX NINJA
KNUCKLES the ECHIDNA LAST OF HIS KIND
THE GREAT CHAOS CAPER
FINALE: WATER WAY TO GO!
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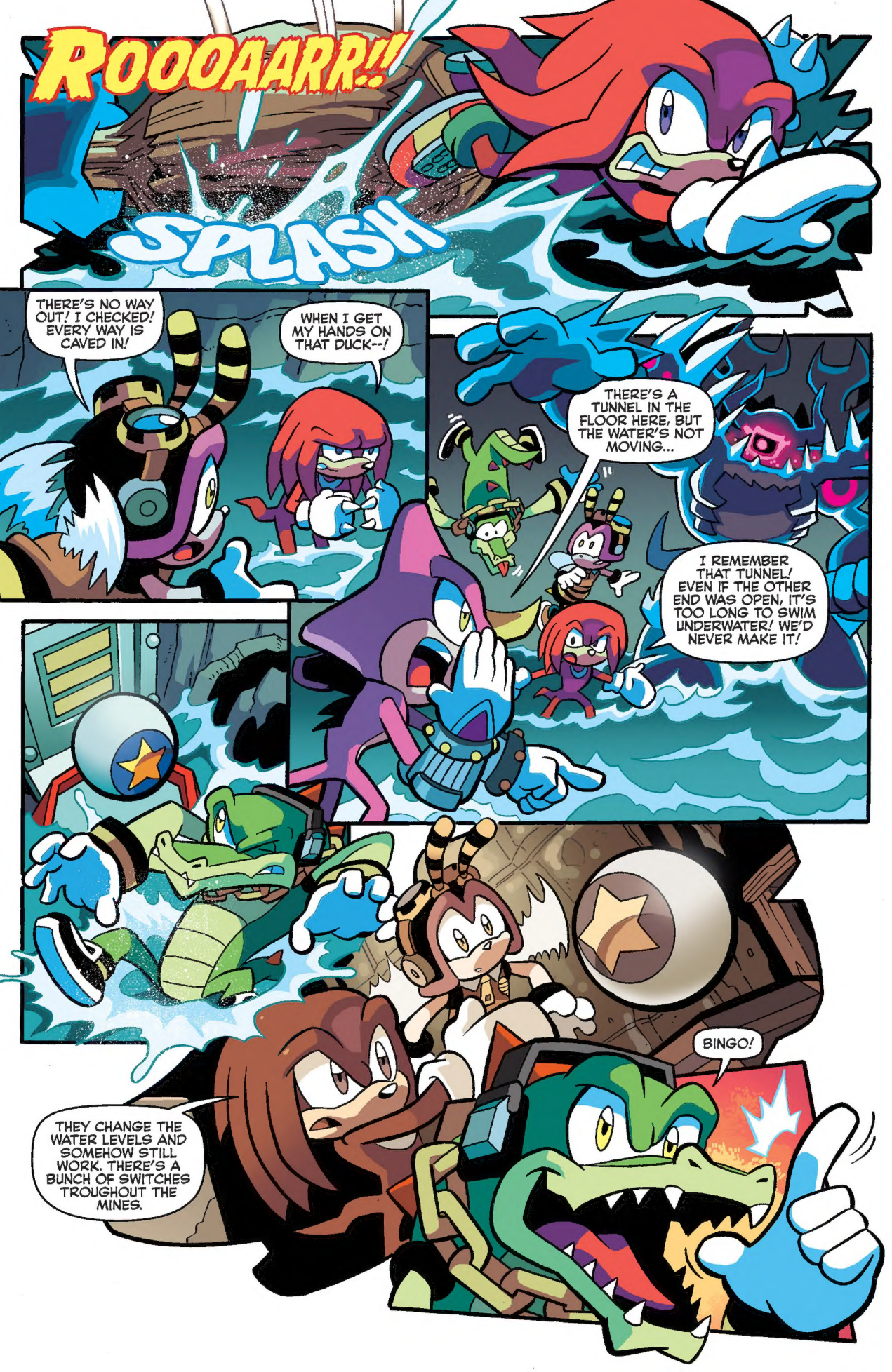
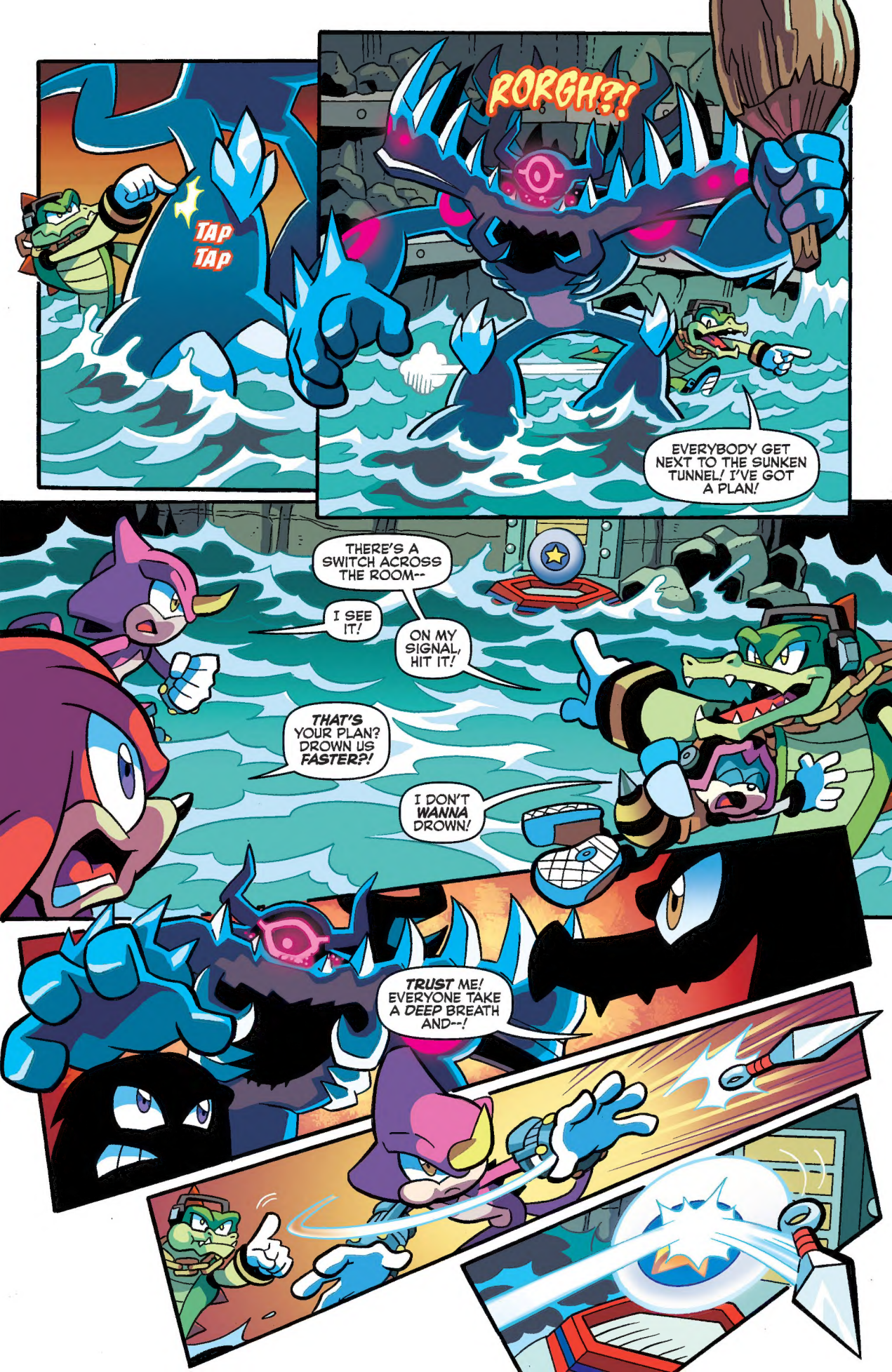
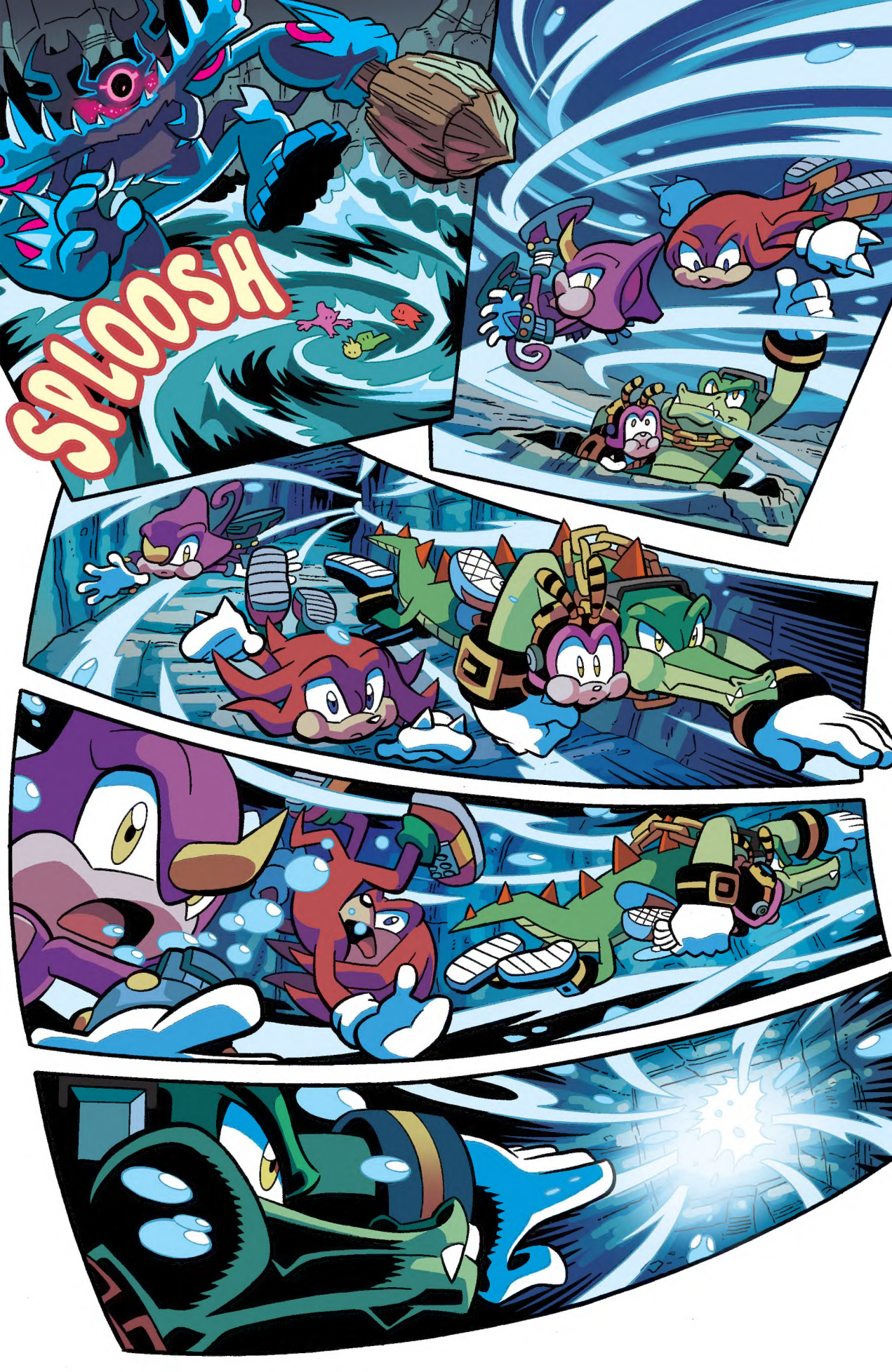
PUBLISHER: JON GOLDWATER
SPECIAL THANKS TO: ANTHONY GACCIONE and the CHARACTER BUSINESS and LICENSING DEPARTMENT of SEGA CORPORATION

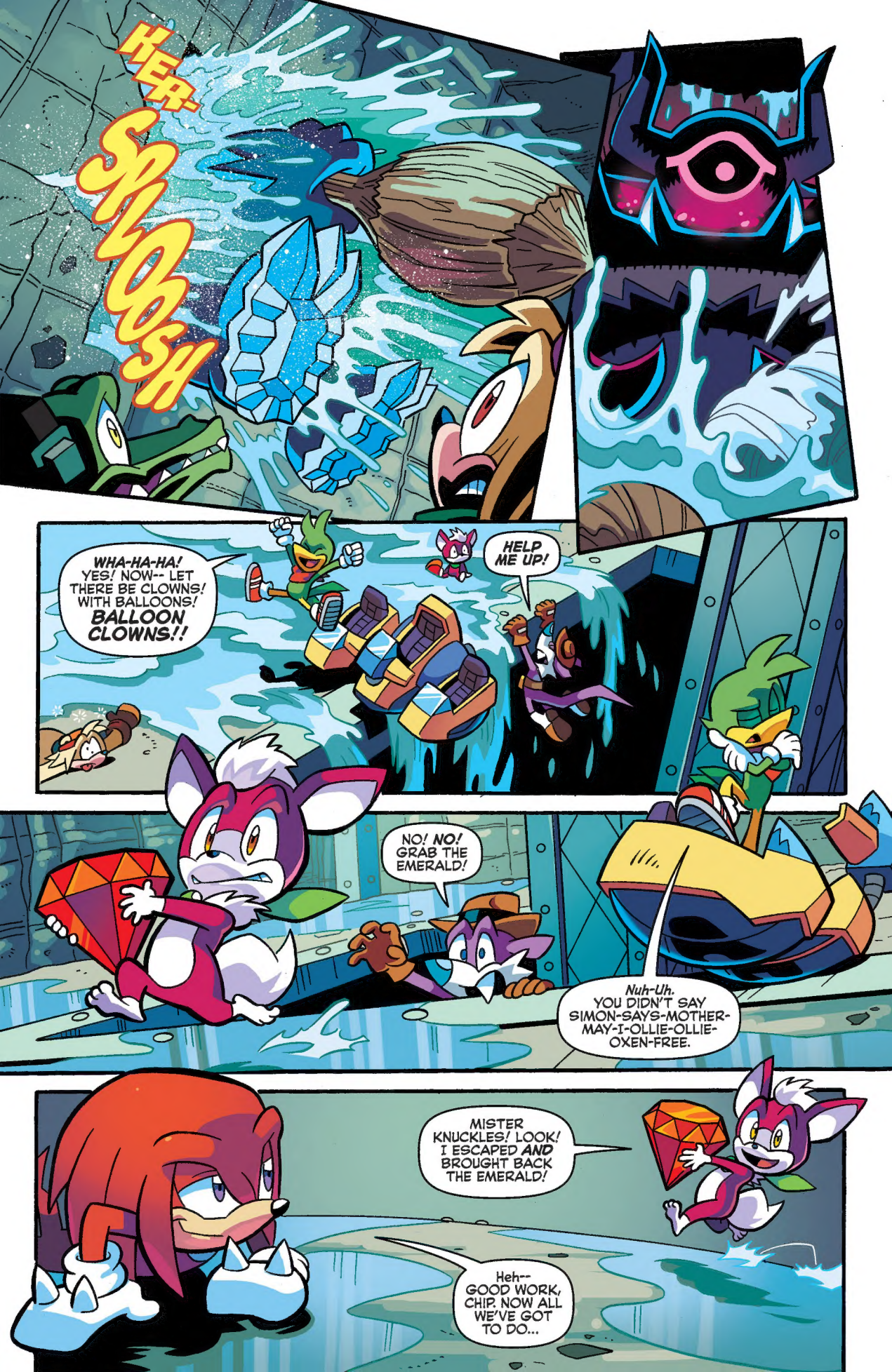

ROOOAARR!!
SPLASH
THERE'S NO WAY OUT! I CHECKED! EVERY WAY IS CAVED IN!
WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THAT DUCK--!
THERE'S A TUNNEL IN THE FLOOR HERE, BUT THE WATER'S NOT MOVING...
I REMEMBER THAT TUNNEL! EVEN IF THE OTHER END WAS OPEN, IT'S TOO LONG TO SWIM UNDERWATER! WE'D NEVER MAKE IT!
BINGO!
THEY CHANGE THE WATER LEVELS AND SOMEHOW STILL WORK. THERE'S A BUNCH OF SWITCHES TROUGHOUT THE MINES.

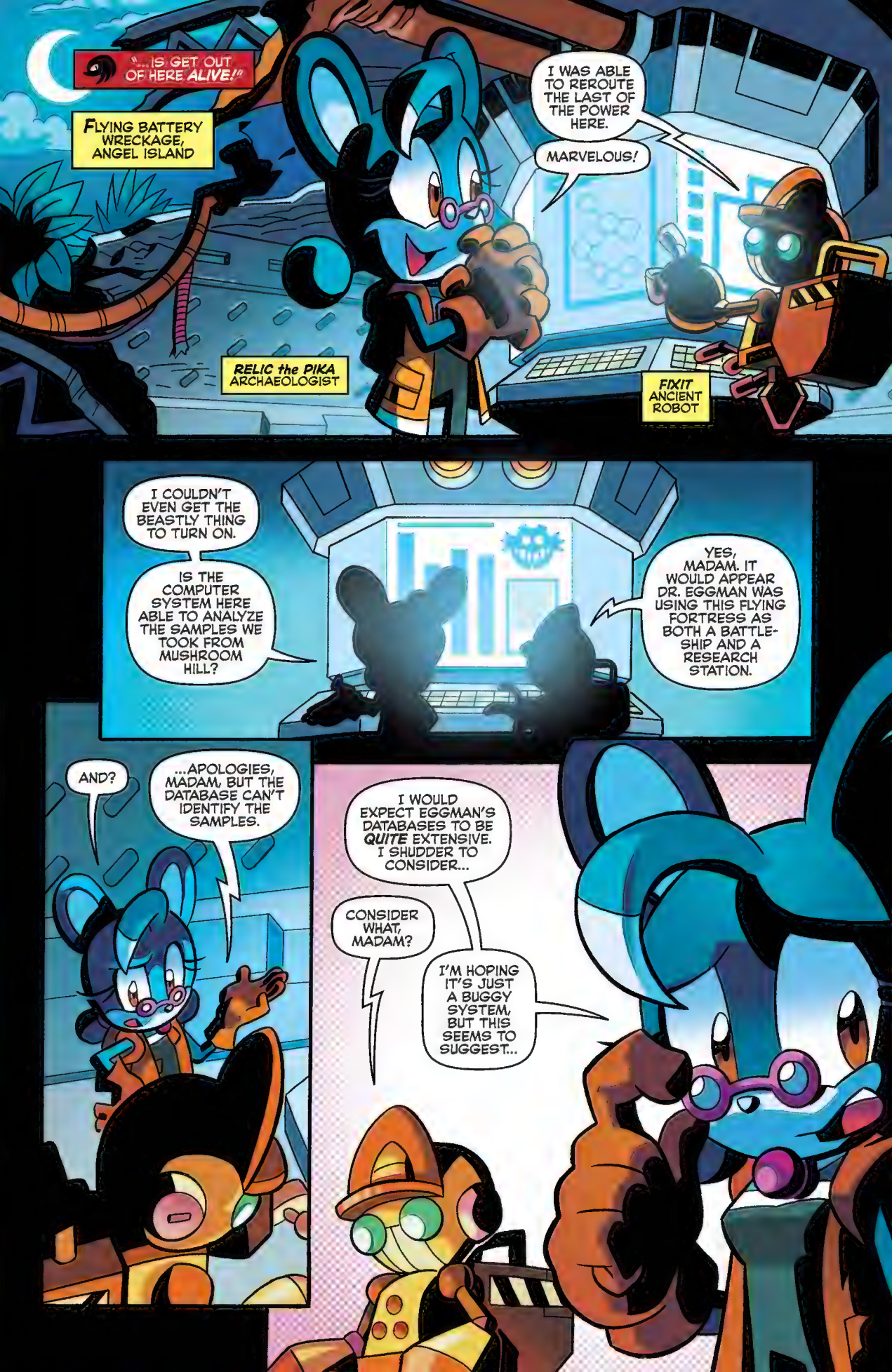

TAP TAP
RORGH?!
EVERYBODY GET NEXT TO THE SUNKEN TUNNEL! I'VE GOT A PLAN!
THERE'S A SWITCH ACROSS THE ROOM--
I SEE IT!
ON MY SIGNAL, HIT IT!
THAT'S YOUR PLAN? DROWN US FASTER?!
I DON'T WANNA DROWN!
TRUST ME! EVERYONE TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND--!


SPLOOSH

CRREEAAKK
THIS IS WHERE WE CAME IN! WE'RE HOME FREE, BOYS!
SKA-PLOOSH
...NOW THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT!

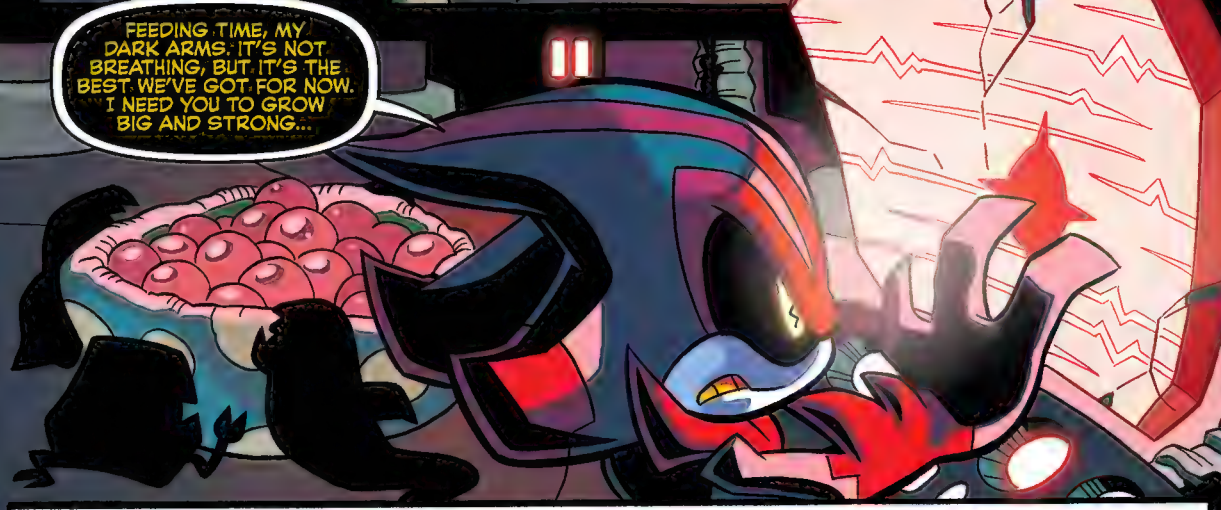
IT'S NOT FAIR...WE'D WON FOR ONCE...
NO...WE'RE NOT DONE YET! I WON'T--!
SPLORT
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
ALL RIGHT... CHIP AND THE EMERALD ARE COMING WITH US. WALK AWAY NOW, OR SO HELP ME...
Um... KNUCKLES?
RRRUMBLE

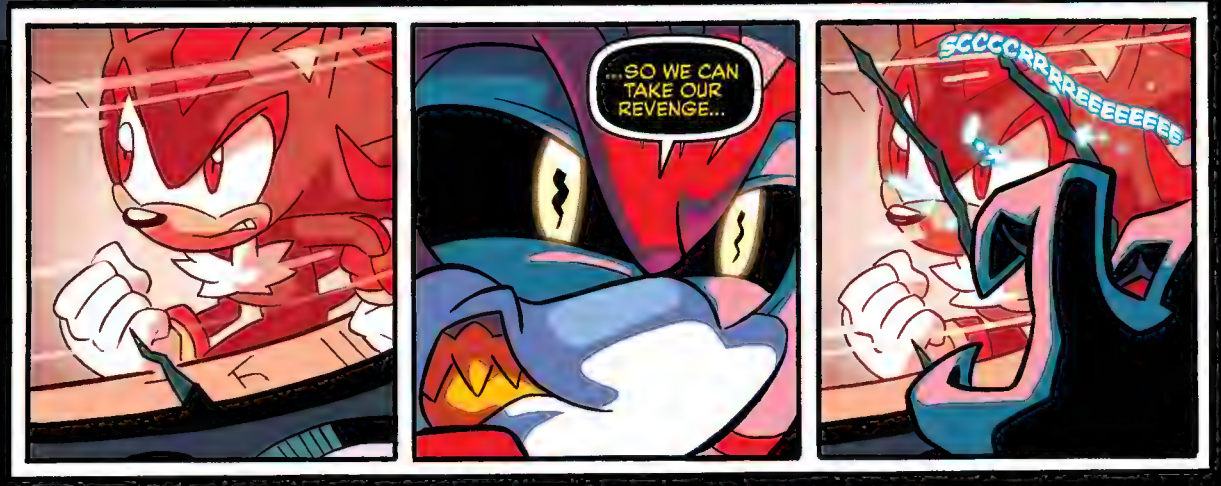

HER-SPLOOSH
WHA-HA-HA! YES! NOW-- LET THERE BE CLOWNS! WITH BALLOONS! BALLOON CLOWNS!!
HELP ME UP!
NO! NO! GRAB THE EMERALD!
Nuh-Uh. YOU DIDN'T SAY SIMON-SAYS-MOTHER-MAY-I-OLLIE-OLLIE-OXEN-FREE.
MISTER KNUCKLES! LOOK! I ESCAPED AND BROUGHT BACK THE EMERALD!
Heh-- GOOD WORK, CHIP. NOW ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO...


"...IS GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!"
FLYING BATTERY WRECKAGE, ANGEL ISLAND
I WAS ABLE TO REROUTE THE LAST OF THE POWER HERE.
MARVELOUS!
RELIC the PIKA ARCHAEOLOGIST
FIXIT ANCIENT ROBOT
I COULDN'T EVEN GET THE BEASTLY THING TO TURN ON.
IS THE COMPUTER SYSTEM HERE ABLE TO ANALYZE THE SAMPLES WE TOOK FROM MUSHROOM HILL?
YES, MADAM. IT WOULD APPEAR DR. EGGMAN WAS USING THIS FLYING FORTRESS AS BOTH A BATTLE-SHIP AND A RESEARCH STATION.
AND?
...APOLOGIES, MADAM, BUT THE DATABASE CAN'T IDENTIFY THE SAMPLES.
I WOULD EXPECT EGGMAN'S DATABASES TO BE QUITE EXTENSIVE. I SHUDDER TO CONSIDER...
CONSIDER WHAT, MADAM?
I'M HOPING IT'S JUST A BUGGY SYSTEM, BUT THIS SEEMS TO SUGGEST...

...THAT THEY'RE NOT OF THIS WORLD."
RED MOUNTAINS, ANGEL ISLAND

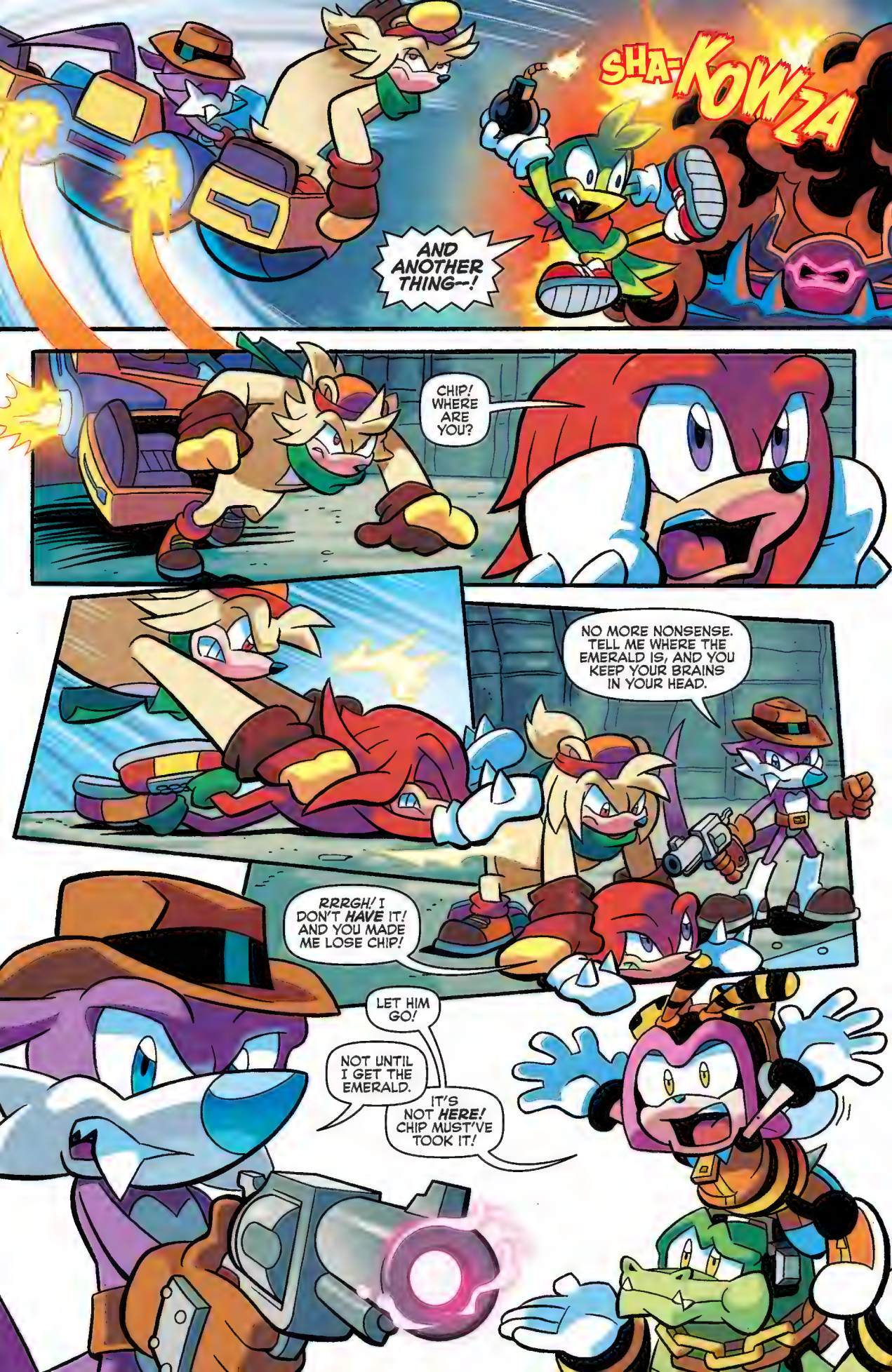
RRRRGH... FORGET TRYING TO HARVEST THE LIFE ON THIS PLANET.
WE SHOULD'VE JUST BLOWN IT UP AND BEEN DONE WITH IT.
ECLIPSE ALIEN, LIVING WEAPON


FEEDING TIME, MY DARK ARMS. IT'S NOT BREATHING, BUT IT'S THE BEST WE'VE GOT FOR NOW. I NEED YOU TO GROW BIG AND STRONG...


...SO WE CAN TAKE OUR REVENGE...
SCCCCRRRRREEEEEEEES

MEANWHILE--AQUATIC MINE ZONE
ROOAARR!
SO...I'VE GOT ANOTHER IDEA, BUT I NEED A MINUTE TO EXPLAIN IT. AND THAT THING AIN'T GONNA COOPERATE.
OOH! OOH! I GOT THIS!
HEY, BEAN! THAT MONSTER SAYS YOUR BOMBS ARE WIMPY! IT SAYS IT'S SEEN BIGGER EXPLOSIONS IN A MICRO-WAVE!
IT SAYS IT'S HEARD MORE BANG FROM A SHEET OF BUBBLE-WRAP!
Uh... BEAN?
BOOM-BADA-BOOM
WORDS CAN HURT, YOU JERK! I'LL TEACH YOU FOR SAYING MEAN THINGS, YOU MOUTH-LESS FREAK!!
NICE WORK, CHARMY! NOW LISTEN UP-- HERE'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO...

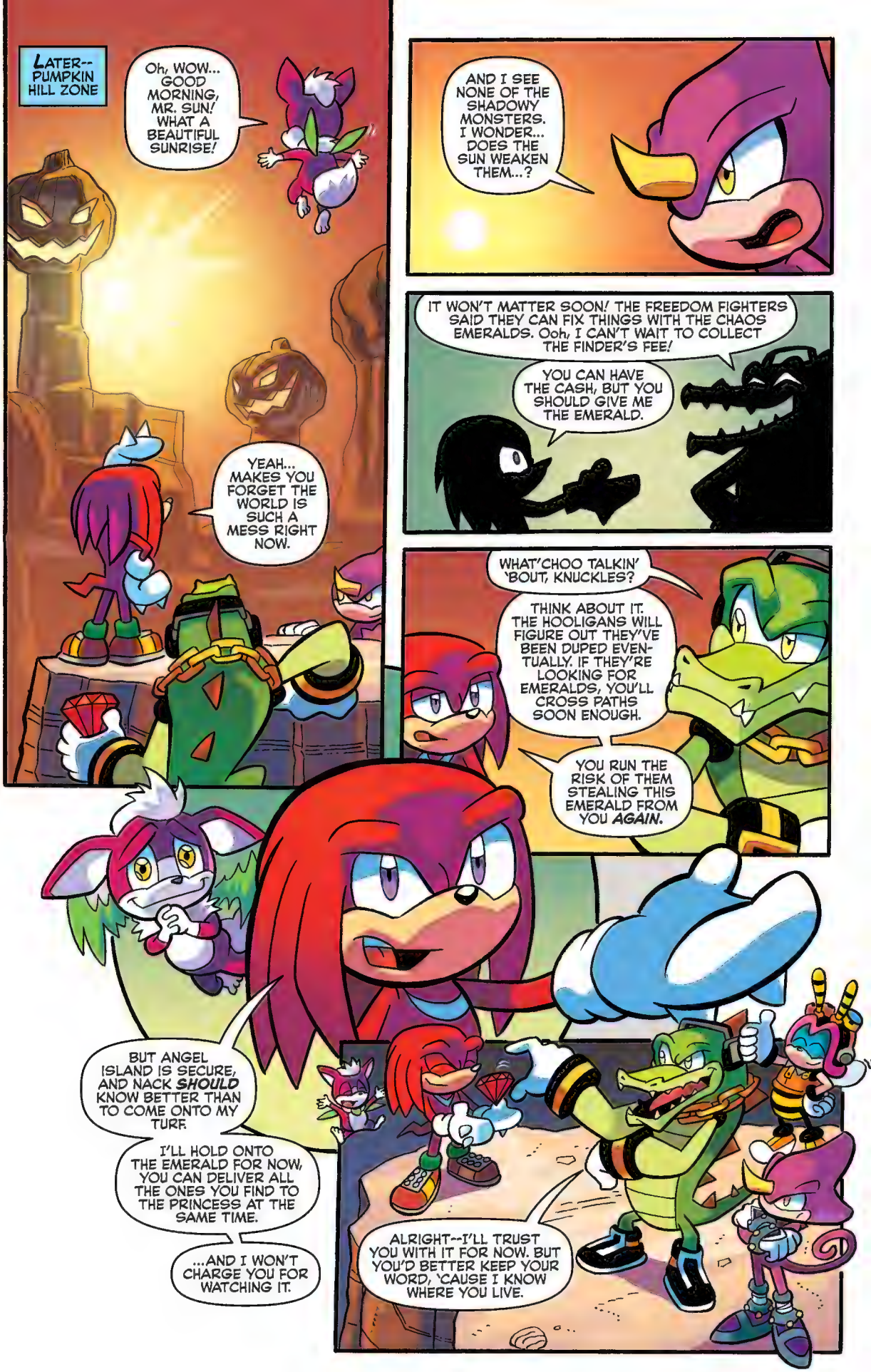
DO I COME TO YOUR PLACE AND TELL YOU HOW TO DO YOUR JOB?! NO! IT'S CALLED "PROFESSIONAL COURTESY"!!
ROOAARR!
BLAM
KA-BLAM
DON'T SASS ME!!
LOOK AT HIM. WHY COULDN'T HE HAVE DONE THAT WHEN WE GOT BUSTED ON THAT JOB IN EMPIRE CITY?
OR WHEN WE WERE GOING FOR THAT VAULT-- YOU REMEMBER THE ONE. WHY DO WE TOLERATE HIM AGAIN?
KA-BOOM
BLAMMO
...AND WHY AM I TRYING TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH YOU?
SIGH C'MON. LET'S GET THAT EMERALD BACK WHILE EVERYONE'S DISTRACTED.
deet deet deet
VROOOOM

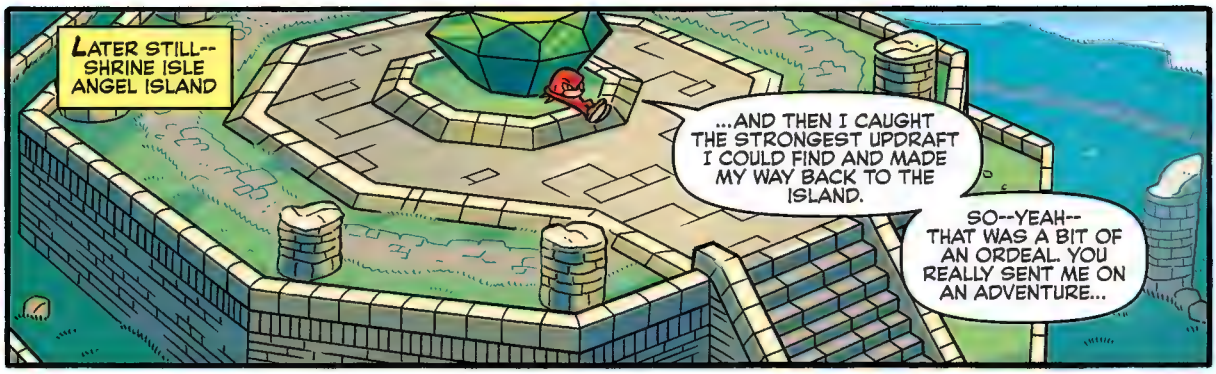

SHA-KOWZA
AND ANOTHER THING--!
CHIP! WHERE ARE YOU?
NO MORE NONSENSE. TELL ME WHERE THE EMERALD IS, AND YOU KEEP YOUR BRAINS IN YOUR HEAD.
RRRGH! I DON'T HAVE IT! AND YOU MADE ME LOSE CHIP!
LET HIM GO!
NOT UNTIL I GET THE EMERALD.
IT'S NOT HERE! CHIP MUST'VE TOOK IT!

WHATAYAMEAN IT'S... GAH! HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH! THE TRACKER SHOWS IT'S ON THE MOVE AGAIN!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR BUDDY ABANDONED YOU! DON'T WORRY--I'LL RUN HIM DOWN SOON ENOUGH. AS A CONSOLATION PRIZE, I'LL LET YOU DEAL WITH THE MONSTER!
BOOM
--SO YOU CAN FIND ME IN THE ALPS, PAL!
BOOM
WE'RE DONE HERE, BEAN!
BWA-HA-HA! SAYONARA, SUCKERS!
WELL I, FOR ONE, FEEL SPIRITUALLY CLEANSED. HOW ABOUT YOU?

PSHAHAHA! THEY'RE ALMOST GONE!
YES. NOW ALL WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IS THE GIANT EN-RAGED BEAST FROM THE DEPTHS.
NOT FOR LONG...
RROOAARR!
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
THUD
BWOOOOSH

AND THAT'S HOW IT'S DONE.
SURE, AFTER BEAN SOFTENED IT UP FOR YOU.
WE'RE CLEAR! I'LL GO GET THE EMERALD. VECTOR, YOU CAN LET CHIP OUT NOW!
BLECH!
I WISH...MY AMNESIA... TOOK THE PAST TEN MINUTES... FOREVER...
SERIOUS QUESTION: HAVE YOU EVER TAKEN A BATH?
...A WHAT...?
TA-DA! SEE? I HID IT REAL GOOD!
YOU DID GREAT, KID.
THE HOOLIGANS WON'T BE BACK, RIGHT?
I SCRAMBLED THEIR TRACKER SO BADLY, THEY'LL BE CHASING FAKE EMERALDS FOR DAYS.
HAHA! NICE WORK, ESPIO!


LATER--PUMPKIN HILL ZONE
Oh, WOW... GOOD MORNING, MR. SUN! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SUNRISE!
YEAH... MAKES YOU FORGET THE WORLD IS SUCH A MESS RIGHT NOW.
AND I SEE NONE OF THE SHADOWY MONSTERS. I WONDER... DOES THE SUN WEAKEN THEM...?
IT WON'T MATTER SOON! THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS SAID THEY CAN FIX THINGS WITH THE CHAOS EMERALDS. Ooh, I CAN'T WAIT TO COLLECT THE FINDER'S FEE!
YOU CAN HAVE THE CASH, BUT YOU SHOULD GIVE ME THE EMERALD.
WHAT'CHOO TALKIN' 'BOUT, KNUCKLES?
THINK ABOUT IT. THE HOOLIGANS WILL FIGURE OUT THEY'VE BEEN DUPED EVENTUALLY. IF THEY'RE LOOKING FOR EMERALDS, YOU'LL CROSS PATHS SOON ENOUGH.
YOU RUN THE RISK OF THEM STEALING THIS EMERALD FROM YOU AGAIN.
BUT ANGEL ISLAND IS SECURE, AND NACK SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO COME ONTO MY TURF.
I'LL HOLD ONTO THE EMERALD FOR NOW, YOU CAN DELIVER ALL THE ONES YOU FIND TO THE PRINCESS AT THE SAME TIME.
...AND I WON'T CHARGE YOU FOR WATCHING IT.
ALRIGHT--I'LL TRUST YOU WITH IT FOR NOW. BUT YOU'D BETTER KEEP YOUR WORD, 'CAUSE I KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE.


LATER STILL--
SHRINE ISLE
ANGEL ISLAND
...AND THEN I CAUGHT THE STRONGEST UPDRAFT I COULD FIND AND MADE MY WAY BACK TO THE ISLAND.
SO--YEAH--THAT WAS A BIT OF AN ORDEAL. YOU REALLY SENT ME ON AN ADVENTURE...

...TIKAL.
I AM SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU--TRULY. BUT RECOVERING THE LIGHT GAIA IS CRUCIAL TO SAVING OUR WORLD.
TIKAL
ANCIENT SPIRIT

"LIGHT GAIA," Huh? SOUNDS IMPORTANT. BUT I THINK I LIKE BEING CALLED "CHIP" BETTER.
WHATEVER YOU LIKE, HONORED SPIRIT. WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS RESTORING YOUR MEMORY AND THE LINK TO YOUR POWER.

IT WAS WISE OF YOU TO BRING THE CHAOS EMERALD BACK WITH YOU. I'M SURE IT WILL HELP THE LIGHT...HELP CHIP'S RECOVERY. IF WE WERE TO HAVE MORE EMERALDS, THOUGH...
I GET YOU. IF THINGS STAY QUIET UP HERE, I'LL LEND A HAND HUNTING DOWN MORE OF THE EMERALDS. BUT FIRST, I JUST WANT TO SLEEP...
KNUCKLES!

Oh, GOOD! YOU'RE BACK!
YEAH, AND VERY TIRED, SO IF YOU--
I FOUND SOMETHING WHILE YOU WERE--!
--HELLO. I DO BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT YOU APPEAR TO BE AN APPARITION.
YES. I AM TIKAL, A SPIRIT BOUND TO THE MASTER EMERALD.
JUDGING BY YOUR CLOTHES...FROM ONE OF THE LONG-LOST INDIGENOUS TRIBES?
YES. BEFORE ANGEL ISLAND TOOK TO THE SKY.
SQUEE!
YOU SIMPLY MUST TELL ME EVERYTHING ABOUT EVERYTHING!
RELIC? HELLO? YOU HAD SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT TO TELL ME?
Oh, RIGHT! HOW SILLY OF ME! LISTEN--MY EVIDENCE IS LIMITED, BUT I FEAR ANGEL ISLAND IS IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ALIEN INVASION!

MEANWHILE-- THE DEATH EGG
MY EGG ARMY IS BUSY SECURING THEIR TERRITORIES! MY BADNIK HORDE IS SPREAD THIN! I HIRED YOU FOR ONE JOB--ONE JOB!--
--AND YOU COME BACK EMPTY HANDED?!
I-IT'S NOT MY FAULT, DOC. THERE WERE THESE MONSTERS, SEE, AND...
YES-YES-YES-- BEASTS BORN FROM THE DARK ENERGY SEEPING FROM THE PLANET'S CORE. THEY'D BE FASCINATING IF THEY WEREN'T BEING SUCH A DRAIN ON MY FORCES.
IF I COULD HARNESS THAT POWER, THOUGH ...HMMMMM...
BUT THAT DOESN'T GET YOU THREE OFF THE HOOK! YOU'RE GETTING ME AN EMERALD, AND THIS TIME FOR FREE!
COMING SOON TO CASINO PARK ARENA THE CHAOS EMERALD CHAMPIONSHIP ALL CONTENDERS WELCOME
LUCKY FOR YOU, I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT FROM...
THE HUNT FOR THE CHAOS EMERALDS CONTINUES IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG! BUT NEXT TIME IN SONIC UNIVERSE-- THE FINAL CHAPTER IN THE DARK TRILOGY BEGINS! SHADOW vs. KNUCKLES! ECLIPSE and the DARK ARMS! AND THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING!!
UNTIL THEN, DON'T MISS OUT ON THE SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST and the GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

MY SONIC UNIVERSE™

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Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Hey there, team!

Hi there, Sonic fan!

First off, let me say that I am a long-time faithful reader who's been along for the ride since the original Sonic miniseries way back when.

Ah, you're a veteran Sonic comic fan! Thanks for supporting the series for so long!

This is the only comic that has managed to keep me captivated and entertained for over 20 years and I love the fact that the art and writing can be appreciated by readers of all ages.

We want to tell the best stories we can for the long-time fans like you, and also have stories that are fun and entertaining for anyone picking up a Sonic comic for the first time! We're happy to hear such great feedback!

I have a few comments and questions about some of the recent happenings in Sonic Universe.

Fire away!

1.) Eclipse. GREAT character, dynamic and lots of potential. I was SO hoping the "Shadow Fall" storyline would twist so that Shadow would throw off the mind control and ultimately convince Eclipse to turn good. I really wanted to see an epic final battle between Shadow and Eclipse. But Eclipse got his butt kicked by E-123. Sure, he survived, but is he really a threat in the future if it doesn't even take Shadow to defeat him?

Hmmm, that's a neat idea with Shadow turning the tables on Eclipse! As for their ultimate battle, who's to say that isn't coming up down the pike?! Eclipse has a lot to prove, and I think you're gonna like what you see in the upcoming "Total Eclipse" story starting next issue.

2.) I'm really enjoying "The Great Chaos Caper." It's always a pleasure to see Bark and Bean. Is it just me, or are the Chaotix unusually snappish with each other? They really didn't seem to be getting along at all.

The Chaotix definitely get on each other's nerves, especially with Charmy's hyperactiveness, but in the end they still come together as a team when it really counts!

Anyway, as always, keep up the great work and here's to 20+ more years of cool adventures!
Sincerely,

Jen B. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for writing in and for the kind words, Jen!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Knuckles.... Shadow.... Eclipse.....
Snively (I think).... Collab....
TRILOGY!!!!!
That settles it...
You guys are even more awesome now.

Shadow's 1.1 fan Austin J. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks, awesome Austin! You got it right! Our next story arc is the third part of our Dark Trilogy storyline!

See y'all next month for the start of the all-new story arc, "Total Eclipse"!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

SONIC UNIVERSE #66

SONIC vs. KNUCKLES VARIANT BY
Brent McCarthy

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